

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1382

To improve and expand the Peace Corps for the 21st century, and for
other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 25, 2009

Mr. DODD introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to
the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To improve and expand the Peace Corps for the 21st
century, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Peace Corps Improve-
5 ment and Expansion Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) Firmly established beliefs of the Peace
9 Corps include the following:

1 (A) The act of volunteering has inherent
2 value.

3 (B) The foreign policy goals of the United
4 States are advanced by—

5 (i) contributing to the reduction of
6 poverty; and

7 (ii) fostering international under-
8 standing.

9 (2) More than 195,000 volunteers have ably
10 served in the Peace Corps in 139 countries by—

11 (A) working towards economic and social
12 development; and

13 (B) promoting a better understanding of—

14 (i) the people of the United States on
15 the part of the peoples served; and

16 (ii) other peoples on the part of the
17 people of the United States.

18 (3) Today, the importance and necessity is
19 greater than ever for the Peace Corps—

20 (A) to promote global economic and social
21 development;

22 (B) to promote understanding and friend-
23 ship; and

24 (C) to foster collaboration with inter-
25 national nongovernmental organizations.

1 (4) Since 1961, a bi-partisan succession of
2 Presidents and Congresses have endorsed the expan-
3 sion of the Peace Corps in order—

4 (A) to meet requests from countries to in-
5 crease the size of the Peace Corps programs in
6 their countries;

7 (B) to initiate Peace Corps programs in
8 countries where the Peace Corps does not cur-
9 rently operate;

10 (C) to provide more opportunities for the
11 people of the United States to engage in volun-
12 teer service abroad; and

13 (D) to renew dormant Peace Corps pro-
14 grams.

15 (5) The purpose of the Peace Corps, as de-
16 clared by section 2(a) of the Peace Corps Act (22
17 U.S.C. 2501), is to promote world peace and friend-
18 ship by helping—

19 (A) the people of interested countries in
20 meeting their needs for trained men and
21 women, particularly in meeting the basic needs
22 of those living in the poorest areas of such
23 countries;

1 (B) to promote a better understanding of
2 people of the United States on the part of the
3 peoples served; and

4 (C) to promote a better understanding of
5 other peoples on the part of the people of the
6 United States.

7 (6) As the Peace Corps reaches its 50th anni-
8 versary in 2010, a new forward-looking strategy
9 should be developed to improve the effectiveness and
10 efficiency of the Peace Corps in pursuing the goals
11 described in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of para-
12 graph (5) by analyzing and accounting for the
13 strengths and weaknesses of the following:

14 (A) The program model of the Peace
15 Corps.

16 (B) The current and planned distribution
17 of Peace Corps volunteers throughout the
18 world.

19 (C) Partnership opportunities and oper-
20 ations of the Peace Corps.

21 (D) Recruitment and management prac-
22 tices of the Peace Corps with respect to the di-
23 versity of Peace Corps volunteers and staff.

1 **SEC. 3. ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGIC PLAN FOR IMPROV-**
2 **ING AND EXPANDING PEACE CORPS.**

3 (a) ASSESSMENT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
5 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director
6 of the Peace Corps shall complete the assessment
7 described in paragraph (2) to determine how best—

8 (A) to strengthen the management capa-
9 bilities and program effectiveness of the Peace
10 Corps;

11 (B) to expand opportunities for Peace
12 Corps volunteers; and

13 (C) to increase the size of the Peace Corps.

14 (2) ASSESSMENT DESCRIBED.—The assessment
15 described in this paragraph means an assessment
16 of—

17 (A) how the purpose of the Peace Corps
18 declared under section 2(a) of the Peace Corps
19 Act (22 U.S.C. 2501(a)) translates into tan-
20 gible strategic plans for the Peace Corps;

21 (B) the distribution of Peace Corps volun-
22 teers in country programs, including how and
23 why volunteers are assigned to various countries
24 and jurisdictions of within countries;

25 (C) the most effective and efficient meth-
26 ods of improving support for the Peace Corps’

1 goal of promoting a better understanding of
2 other peoples on the part of the people of the
3 United States;

4 (D) the prospects for partnerships with
5 international and host country nongovernmental
6 organizations and other entities to achieve the
7 goals of the Peace Corps through development
8 projects;

9 (E) the adequacy of the current program
10 model of the Peace Corps and the feasibility of
11 program models such as the Peace Corps Re-
12 sponse Program;

13 (F) the effectiveness and efficiency of vol-
14 unteer recruitment strategies, methods, and re-
15 source allocations used by the Peace Corps;

16 (G) the effectiveness of the Peace Corps in
17 recruiting ethnically, socio-economically, and
18 geographically diverse volunteers with wide-
19 ranging skills and interests;

20 (H) the skills and interests of current
21 Peace Corps volunteers;

22 (I) options for diversification of the skills
23 and interests of Peace Corps volunteers, includ-
24 ing volunteers with skills and interests that re-
25 late to public health, information technology,

1 urban planning, social services, communica-
2 tions, and community organizing;

3 (J) the Peace Corps volunteer training
4 programs;

5 (K) the options available to volunteers to
6 suspend payment of student loans while serving
7 in the Peace Corps;

8 (L) the medical care received by volunteers
9 while serving in the Peace Corps;

10 (M) the procedures of the Peace Corps for
11 mandatory medical separation of volunteers
12 serving in the Peace Corps;

13 (N) the medical screening process for vol-
14 unteers entering service in the Peace Corps, in-
15 cluding—

16 (i) the cost to the Peace Corps of pro-
17 viding full reimbursement for medical tests
18 under taken by volunteers applying for or
19 entering service in the Peace Corps;

20 (ii) expanded information for appli-
21 cants including potentially disqualifying
22 medical conditions; and

23 (iii) the cost of extending the medical
24 care provided by the Peace Corps to volun-
25 teers serving in the Peace Corps to include

1 the 5-month period beginning on the date
 2 on which a volunteer completes service in
 3 the Peace Corps;

4 (O) the causes of the early termination of
 5 service in the Peace Corps, using the cohort
 6 and other statistically appropriate methods and
 7 the reasons cited by volunteers terminating
 8 their service in the Peace Corps early;

9 (P) how the Peace Corps can utilize infor-
 10 mation technology to improve—

11 (i) program efficiency, effectiveness,
 12 and coordination; and

13 (ii) communication among volunteers;

14 (Q) mechanisms for soliciting the views of
 15 volunteers serving in the Peace Corps, on a con-
 16 fidential basis, regarding—

17 (i) the support provided to such volun-
 18 teers by senior staff of the Peace Corps;
 19 and

20 (ii) the operations of the Peace Corps,
 21 including—

22 (I) staffing decisions;

23 (II) site selection;

24 (III) language training;

25 (IV) country programs; and

1 (V) dialogue with host country
2 partners and ministries; and

3 (R) mechanisms for incorporating the
4 views solicited in subparagraph (Q) into pro-
5 gramming and management decisions of the
6 Peace Corps.

7 (3) METHOD.—The assessment shall—

8 (A) be built on a review of past experiences
9 and studies; and

10 (B) draw on the knowledge of—

11 (i) current Peace Corps volunteers
12 and staff, at all levels of seniority;

13 (ii) returned Peace Corps volunteers
14 and staff; and

15 (iii) host country nationals and offi-
16 cials who have worked closely with Peace
17 Corps volunteers.

18 (b) STRATEGIC PLAN.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
20 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Di-
21 rector of the Peace Corps shall develop, based on the
22 assessment required under subsection (a), a stra-
23 tegic plan for the Peace Corps that—

1 (A) encompasses the findings of the Direc-
 2 tor with respect to the assessment required
 3 under subsection (a); and

4 (B) includes the matters described in para-
 5 graph (2).

6 (2) MATTERS DESCRIBED.—The matters de-
 7 scribed in this paragraph include the following:

8 (A) 1-year and 5-year goals and bench-
 9 marks for the Peace Corps that address—

10 (i) each matter included in the assess-
 11 ment required under subsection (a); and

12 (ii) such other matters as the Director
 13 considers appropriate.

14 (B) Strategies for—

15 (i) distributing volunteers to countries
 16 in which they have maximum value-added
 17 for the host country, for the United States,
 18 and for the volunteers themselves;

19 (ii) identifying countries with strategic
 20 value to Peace Corps goals, currently not
 21 served or dormant, and proposals for start-
 22 ing new country programs or re-activating
 23 dormant programs, as well as countries
 24 with less strategic relevance to Peace

1 Corps goals, including proposals for reduc-
2 ing or closing such country programs;

3 (iii) balancing the Peace Corps' inde-
4 pendence with its need to remain relevant
5 to broader United States foreign goals; and

6 (iv) ensuring that Peace Corps oper-
7 ations and goals are not adversely affected
8 in situations where the bi-lateral relation-
9 ship between the host country and the
10 United States is problematic.

11 (c) REPORT.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
13 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Di-
14 rector of the Peace Corps shall submit to the appro-
15 priate congressional committees a report that in-
16 cludes—

17 (A) the findings of the Director with re-
18 spect to the assessment required under sub-
19 section (a); and

20 (B) the strategic plan developed under sub-
21 section (b).

22 (2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
23 TEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “ap-
24 propriate congressional committees” means—

1 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations
 2 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
 3 Senate; and

4 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
 5 the Committee on Appropriations of the House
 6 of Representatives.

7 **SEC. 4. LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF PRESIDENTIAL AP-**
 8 **POINTMENTS UNDER PEACE CORPS ACT.**

9 The Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.) is
 10 amended by inserting after section 19 the following:

11 **“SEC. 20. LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF POLITICAL APPOINT-**
 12 **MENTS.**

13 “Except for appointments made under section 12, the
 14 President may not make more than 15 concurrent ap-
 15 pointments under this Act.”.

16 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 Section 3(b) of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C.
 18 2502(b)) is amended to read as follows:

19 “(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
 21 appropriated to carry out the purposes of this Act—

22 “(A) \$450,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;

23 “(B) \$575,000,000 for fiscal year 2011;

24 and

25 “(C) \$700,000,000 for fiscal year 2012.

1 “(2) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts au-
2 thorized to be appropriated under paragraph (1) for
3 a fiscal year are authorized to remain available for
4 that fiscal year and the subsequent fiscal year.”.

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